

Lab 5, Activity 4, Interview Planning and Closings
Case Manager's Interview Closing with Foster Parent

Case Manager: We've talked about a number of things you might try to help Melissa open up about her mother. You thought it might be good for you to spend some special time alone with her every day to help her feel more comfortable with you, maybe come to trust you more and you're also going to talk to Beth and Jimmy about what you're doing and why so they don't feel jealous. Then when the time seemed right, you thought you'd broach the subject with her, maybe by talking about how hard it was for you when your mother died and how hard it was for you to talk about it to anyone. And then you can just play it by ear, not push her, just listen to anything she has to say.

Foster Parent: Yeah, that's pretty much it. Do you think it'll work?

Case Manager: Well, I think it's a great way to start and I really appreciate your being willing to take on dealing with this. I know you care for Melissa a lot.

Foster Parent: I really do. She's such a sweet child, she's just so unhappy.

Case Manager: Let's talk for a minute about how you and I can work together on this. How would you feel about kind of keeping me posted?

Foster Parent: Well that would be fine, I could call you once a week.

Case Manager: Okay you could call me more than that if you want to, but that would at least keep me up to date.

Foster Parent: Okay, what if it doesn't work?

Case Manager: Well let's give it at least a month. At that point, if there's no progress, I might need to do some counseling with Melissa or we may need to have her see a therapist who deals specifically with children. How does that sound to you?

Foster Parent: That sounds fine.

Case Manager: Okay so you're going to call me once a week for the next month and let me know how things are going. Then we can get together and decide if she's responding to you the way we hope she will, or if she's going to need more in-depth professional help.

Foster Parent: Okay.